Further it is proposed that the Corporation would be given authority to raise resourcers from domestic and international financial agencies as well as market borrowings. As the Planning Commission, has not favoured the setting up of such a Corporation, an alternative has been proposed, that is to undertake a scheme for providing special assistance for the expeditious completion of Nationally Important Irrigation Projects.

Advisory Committee to Improve Functioning of Passport Offices

6864. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propsoe to constitute Advisory Committees consisting of eminent local personalities to improve the functioning of the passport offices in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such committees likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). It is proposed to constitute a Passport Advisory Committee attached to each Passport Office in India as early as possible for closer interaction between publicmen and Passport Officers, to monitor public grievances more accurately and to recommend remedial measures.

Telephone Exchanges

6865. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in different states and the four Metropolitan cities as on June 30, 1991;

(b) the types of exchanges (Electronic, Manual etc.) percentage of utilisation of switching facility as on June 1, 1991;

(c) the demand for new telephones in OYT and Non-OYT categories as on June 1, 1990, separately;

(d) the percentage of growth rate of new demand during the last three years;

(e) the number and the percentage of such demand which is being met annually; and

(f) the steps proposed to meet the demand for telephone connections and exchanges and the investment required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). The information as on 1.4.91 is given in Statement I and II enclosed.

(c) The information is given in statement III enclosed.

(d) The percentage growth rate is as under as on 31st March:

Year	*New demand (lakhs)*	*Percentage growth over the previous year*
1988-89	5.07	9.97
1989-90	7.12	12.73
1990-91	7.32	11.58